

Comments from Visitors Book to “Keep the Doors of my Lips,”
an exhibition organised as a
conversation between images and text from the BLT19 website with
works by 4 contemporary artists at the
Stephen Lawrence Gallery, Greenwich
11 July - 14 August 2019

- 1) Brilliant, I really enjoyed answering the questions
- 2) Fascinating insights into not just work in the 19th century but how it was discussed and represented. Some v. interesting links to present day too. Jeweller advert with no-one seeming to wear the things they're modelling reminded me of the Dead Poets [?] song “hell Yeah”: MCflippin [?] burgers wit no power/ Can't even buy one off what I make in an hour". I think these examples in the exhibition show that there were a lot more images of people at work in 19th century than today
- 3) Very interesting glimpse into attitudes towards work and use of “free” time in Victorian ages – particularly interesting comparison between concerns over machines becoming dominant in terms of work then and now.
- 4) Very interesting, particularly the adverts. It was interesting that there were not many images of men working.
- 5) Excellent, provocative labels! Accessible, relevant ad engaging – Thanks!
- 6) Excellent exhibition – needs a wider audience – lots of ideas for discussion.
- 7) Really shows the contrast between the rich and the pore. All though I don't want to live in the Victorian times, I would much rather be a rich. From Doritk [?] 10 years
- 8) Best show ever!
- 9) Thought provoking emotional roller-coaster really made me think. Loved the speeches [evidently from launch]
- 10) Do we learn from the past? If so what? Thought provoking, thanks.
- 11) Who put the sermons on the stones. Thanks for the whole exhibition!
- 12) Very good!
- 13) A very stimulating and interesting exhibition – thought provoking! I started to think about women's war work when the element of “Patriotism” was added! So many women were interviewed about work in Armament Factories during the Second World War, spoke with enthusiasm about taking in genuine “men's work” and then being sad when they had to give it up, when the men returned form the war. It was a strange state of affairs. Alex Schweitzer
- 14) Great exhibition. A powerful combination of past and present; how does the former influence the latter, I wonder? “Do we learn from the past?” I supposed contemporary art is an attempt to make sense of what came before... {de)constructing he future? * Note on the

young Blacksmith “the young blacksmith may work at transforming metals but at his root is an idea of nature” Is it? What strikes me rather is that the anvil is placed above/ on top of the trunk, crushing it more than anything. Isn't the blacksmith destroying nature rather than taking root? In that sense, is he losing his own nature? “an evolution from the vegetable to the mental to the spiritual”? To what extent? Is it evolution? Or are we going the wrong way? If so, it might be worth tracing our steps back to the roots. Conclusion: I tend to overthink. 😊 Don't we all? Whoever reads this thank you for taking the time 😊 Pauline

- 15) Interesting and thought provoking but missing commentaries next to sculptures. Karen.
- 16) Magnificently beautiful prints here: made me look at notion of work in 'brain work' market
- 17) Interesting insight into how work was seen in Victorian era and now
- 18) Interesting and captivating. It gives a good insight of how work was done in past and present. Great effort!
- 19) Hello. Congratulations for this amazing exhibition. LOVE from BULGARIA. Bulgaria
20.07.2019 @ University of Architecture Civil engineering and geodesy Sofia
- 20) Really made me think – gorgeous pictures
- 21) Paula Geraghty 20 June 2019. Really important work thank you for curating and putting on the exhibition
- 22) Elizabeth ?? 22 July 2019 hugely enjoyable and important exhibition – so good to have seen it!
- 23) Fiona Snailham 22 July 2019 very interesting connections between C19 and C21 projections of “work” Great insights into domestic slavery and what it means to combine labour with family (or not be able to). Thank you
- 24) Very interesting discussions of artists trying to make a difference of important issues. Thanks you ??
- 25) Very inspiring and thought provoking exhibition! I very much appreciated the guidance provided in the comments to the periodicals – they generated more questions than giving one, straight answer which I liked very much. The contemporary pieces were very powerful and touching; they added so many angles to the subject and really often created a bridge to the themes raised in the periodicals, I enjoyed this very much, thank you! Clara W. PS Catherine Hoffman was my favourite!
- 26) A fantastic and utterly fascinating exhibition! Thoroughly enjoyed it and gave me a lot to think about. Alison C.
- 27) Thought-provoking, relevant, poignant messages which were very much more appreciated in conversation
- 28) Very stimulating especially videos of migrant workers
- 29) Work is a curse, bring on the robots. Thanks, stimulating exhibition and good to see Workwoman and men. My life is changed! ?? Murray
- 30) Deep! Very enjoyable, profound & stimulating, so many questions... If I give u my job, this exhibition is to blame. I like the old challenging the new. AJH

